Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A retroviral RNA molecule, in an isolated or purified state, that is obtainable from tissue, comprising a~~a~~the nucleotide sequence which, in the form of DNA, is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ set forth in SEQ ID NO:11 ~~and sequences that exhibit for every sequence of 100 contiguous monomers at least 70% homology with SEQ ID NO: 11~~.

2.   (Currently Amended) A retroviral RNA molecule, in an isolated or purified state, that is obtainable from tissue, comprising a nucleotide ~~sequence,~~ sequence encoding ~~any polypeptide exhibiting, for every contiguous sequence of at least 30 amino acids, at least 80% identity with a peptide sequence encoded by at least~~ a functional part of SEQ ID NO:11.

3–4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 2, wherein the functional part of SEQ ID NO:11 encodes at least one retroviral protein.

6.   (Previously Presented) The molecule according to claim 5, comprising at least one regulatory nucleotide sequence.

7–9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ An amplification primer for ~~amplification of the molecule according to claim 1~~ amplifying the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:11 or a fragment thereof, comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions with the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:11 ~~of the molecule according to claim 1~~ or with any specific amplification product thereof, wherein the primer is 10 to 30 nucleotides in length.

11–19. (Canceled)

20.   (Previously Presented) A diagnostic composition comprising the molecule according to claim 1.

21.   (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing an autoimmune disease, a pathology associated with an autoimmune disease, a pathological pregnancy, or an unsuccessful pregnancy, the method comprising:

obtaining a biological sample;

contacting the biological sample with a molecular marker comprising the molecule according to claim 1; and

detecting the molecular marker.

22.   (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing susceptibility to an autoimmune disease or a pathology associated with an autoimmune disease, a risk of a pathological pregnancy, or a risk of an unsuccessful pregnancy, the method comprising:

obtaining a biological sample;

contacting the biological sample with an RNA marker comprising the molecule according to claim 1; and

detecting the RNA marker.

23.   (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a gene associated with susceptibility to an autoimmune disease or a pathology associated with an autoimmune disease, a risk of a pathological pregnancy, or a risk of an unsuccessful pregnancy, the method comprising:

obtaining a biological sample;

contacting the biological sample with an RNA marker comprising the molecule according to claim 1; and

detecting the RNA marker.

24–29. (Canceled)

30.   (Withdrawn) The molecule according to claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:7, 8 and 9.

31–35. (Canceled)

36.   (Withdrawn) The molecule according to claim 2, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:7, 8 and 9.

37–38. (Canceled)

39.   (Previously Presented) A probe for detection of the molecule according to claim 1, wherein the probe is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:16 to 28.

40.   (New) The primer according to claim 10, wherein said primer consists of a sequence selected from the group consisting of the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:16 to 28.